

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Coppell Post Office Mercury Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial and Final POLREP
Coppell Post Office Mercury Spill

Coppell, TX
Latitude: 32.9522740 Longitude: -97.0177620

To: Ronnie Crossland, EPA R6

From: William Rhotenberry, OSC

Date: 8/28/2018

Reporting Period: 08/07/2018 - 08/17/2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A6RX	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	8/7/2018	Start Date:	8/7/2018
Demob Date:	8/12/2018	Completion Date:	8/17/2018
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

The site is the USPS North Texas Processing and Distribution Center. The facility is a 700,000-square foot building located in a commercial area.

1.1.2.1 Location

The facility is located at 951 W. Bethel Rd. in Coppell, TX in an industrial park area.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Two 25-pound parcels containing mercury were compromised inside the facility and an unknown amount was released in several different areas of the building. Mercury vapors pose a threat to the health and safety of the postal employees on-site. Mercury tracked throughout the facility and potentially on equipment and shoes of the employees could pose a further threat.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA Team arrived and met with ES&H (PRP contractor) who had established 3 spill zones where mercury was visible. USPS representatives stated that the Coppell Fire Department, Irving HazMat, and Lewisville Fire Department had arrived on-site during the initial response at 0100 hours to assist with decontaminating the employees who had handled the mercury.

The ATSDR screening level for an occupational setting which does not expect to have mercury is 3,000-4,000 ng/m3. EPA conducted initial mercury vapor screenings utilizing a Lumex Mercury Vapor Analyzer (Lumex) at 4 locations at the facility. The Dock 71 area (Zone 1) contained the highest measurements at 15,000 to >50,000 ng/m3. EE14 (Zone 2) readings were 9,000-24,000 ng/m3. The Annex building spill (Zone 3) measured up to 4,000-14,000 ng/m3. The Red Break Room (Zone 4) measured 4,000-11,000 ng/m3. Measurements taken at the walkways between these zones were below 3,000 ng/m3.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA Team responded to assist USPS contractors with the mercury spill.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On 07 August 2018, the EPA was activated to respond to a mercury spill at the USPS North Texas Processing and Distribution Center in Coppell, TX. Two 25-pound parcels containing mercury were spilled inside the facility. PRP contractors arrived on-site and began preparations for collecting a large amount of visible mercury which appeared to be spilled at three separate locations. The EPA Team utilized a Lumex to conduct mercury vapor screenings of the facility areas where visible mercury was observed and areas that were reported to have had mercury contamination.

During the preliminary assessment, the EPA screened mercury vapors at four zones including: the Dock 71 area (Zone 1) which exhibited the highest measurements at 15,000 to >50,000 ng/m3; the EE14 location inside the warehouse (Zone 2) where readings were 9,000-24,000 ng/m3 ; the Annex building spill (Zone 3) where measurements ranged from 4,000-14,000 ng/m3; and the Red Break Room area (Zone 4) that measured 4,000-11,000 ng/m3. Measurements taken along the walkway between these zones were below 3,000 ng/m3.

At approximately 1430 hours, the EPA measured 9,000 ng/m3 at an area 40 feet (north) of the initial Zone 1 boundary. The USPS, EPA and USPS Contractors put together a plan to conduct mercury screenings of employee's shoes and automobiles as needed to insure mercury was not leaving the site. EPA agreed to mobilize to Quitman, TX and screen the USPS facility where the mercury parcels were originally mailed from.

At 0900 on 8 August 2018, the EPA arrived at the US Post Office in Quitman, TX and met with the facility managers outside. The EPA team, escorted by a USPS employee, were the first people to enter the building that day. The EPA team screened mercury vapors at ten zones including; where the parcels were stored prior to mailing. The average of the measurements recorded in all ten zones did not exceed 10ng/mg3. There was no evidence that the parcels leaked at the Quitman facility.

At 1456 the EPA along with a representative from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) screened mercury vapors at three zones including: the Dock 71 area (Zone 1) which exhibited the highest measurement exceeding 50,000 ng/m3; the EE14 location inside the warehouse (Zone 2) where readings were 1,875-15,000 ng/m3 ; the Annex building spill (Zone 3) where measurements ranged from 1,500-7,000 ng/m3. Measurements taken along the walkway between these zones were below 1,000 ng/m3.

On 9 August 2018, the EPA screened mercury vapors at four zones including: the Dock 71 area (Zone 1) where readings were between 250-735ng/m3 with a reading of >20,000 near the doc-lift/leveler; the EE14 location inside the warehouse (Zone 2) where readings were 7000-22,340 ng/m3 ; the Annex building spill (Zone 3) where measurements ranged 800-1,300ng/m3 with a spike of 4635ng/m3, and the Red Break Room area (Zone 4) that measured an average of 1,300 ng/m3. Measurements taken along the walkway between these zones ranged from 100-1,300 ng/m3.

On 10 August 2018, the EPA screened mercury vapors at four zones including: the Dock 71 area (Zone 1) where readings were between 300-1,200ng/m3; the EE14 location inside the warehouse (Zone 2) where readings were 2,000-40,000 ng/m3 ; the Annex building spill (Zone 3) where measurements ranged from 700-4,500ng/m3, and the Red Break Room area (Zone 4) that measured ranged from 300-450ng/m3. Measurements taken along the walkway between these zones ranged was from 120-500 ng/m3. The EPA team also screened the Cafeteria where readings where between 120-178ng/m3. Decon Gel was applied to the floors in the Zones with elevated readings of mercury vapor in an attempt to bind the non-visible mercury beads to the gel.

After continuing to clean the affected areas on the 11th and 12th of August, the USPS conducted confirmation sampling on the evening of the 12th. 8-hour air sampling tubes were set up at 22 separate locations throughout the facility. On 13 August the EPA team, TCEQ, USPS and their contractors conducted a teleconference and discussed the analytical results of the samples. None of the 22 samples collected had results above 500ng/m3. All results were below the clearance level of 3,000ng/m3 agreed to by all stakeholders at the outset. The USPS was re-opened for business immediately.

There were several items that were contaminated and removed from the building for further decontamination including a small amount of mail and two dock levelers that had mercury spilled on them when the parcels entered the facility. The tractor trailer that transported the parcels had heavy contamination and a decision was made by the USPS to cut up the trailer and dispose of it.

On 18 June 2018, the USPS provided the EPA and TCEQ with a "30-day Report" with regards to the spill.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

USPS is the Responsible Party.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

NA

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

NA

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

No information at this time.

2.2.2 Issues

No information at this time.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

No information at this time.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

No information at this time.

2.5.3 Information Officer

No information at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

USPS

USPS contractor leads

TCEQ

EPA

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

No information at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

ES&H - USPS contractor

CTEH - USPS contractor

TCEQ

USPS

EPA

5. Definition of Terms

USPS - United States Postal Service

TCEQ - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

More information is available at <https://response.epa.gov>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

No information at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.